

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /137 W

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R 221315Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2316

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 150

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, MZ

SUBJECT: NHACAMBO ATTACK GETS HEAVY PRESS ATTENTION

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 30

1. SUMMARY: BLOODY FRELIMO ATTACK ON NHACAMBO BEING THOROUGHLY EXPLOITED BY PORTUGUESE AND OTHER NEWS MEDIA. END OF SUMMARY.

2. WIDE PRESS COVERAGE BEING GIVEN TO NHACAMBO ATTACK REPORTED REFTEL. SAMPLE ARTICLES AND PHOTOS BEING POUCHED. FOLLOWING JOURNALISTS VISITED ACTUAL SITE JANUARY 12 AND 13: WILF NUSSEY OF ARGUS AFRICA NEWS SERVICE, JOHN OSMAN OF BBC, H.W. RUDOLPH AND J.M. ROETS OF SABS-UPI, SILVA RAMALHO
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OF AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, W.F. MUTCHMANN OF CBS, DENNIS

GORDON OF RAND DAILY MAIL, GRAF VAN PFEIL OF DND, AND REG SHAY FREELANCER.

3. DURING JANUARY 14-15 VISIT BY CONGEN VAN OSS AND DEPT OFFICER STEVEN MCDONALD TO TETE AND CABORA BASSA, WE TALKED WITH SEVERAL NEWS MEDIA CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS WHO HAD JUST COME FROM NHACAMBO. AFTER WITNESSING AND PHOTOGRAPHING SMOLDERING RUINS OF HUT AND SLAIN BODIES, INTERVIEWING WOUNDED IN HOSPITAL AND OTHER SURVIVORS, ALL WERE CONVINCED BEYOND DOUBT ATTACK WAS MADE BY FRELIMO GUERRILLAS - PROBABLY CLOSER TO 60 IN NUMBER THAN THE 200 SUGGESTED BY SOME MILITARY SOURCES. ONE REPORTER BASED IN SALISBURY, RHODESIA (MUTCHMANN, AN AMERICAN CITIZEN) WILL LONDON ORIGIN RUMOR ATTACK HAD ACTUALLY BEEN PERPETRATED BY PORTUGUESE BY POINTING OUT IN SUCH CASE SURVIVORS WOULD NOT HAVE RETURNED TO VILLAGE. (ABOUT 300 OR ORIGINAL 500 INHABITANTS HAD REAPPEARED AT THAT POINT.)

4. PRESIDENT OF RED CROSS IN TETE, ENG. ANTONIO PIRES DE CARVALHO, USUALLY VERY CRITICAL OF PORTUGUESE POLICIES IN MOZAMBIQUE, SHOWED US PHOTOS HE HAD TAKEN OF THE CARNAGE, INCLUDING CLOSE UPS OF BAYONETTED BODIES, ETC. FROM HIS STUDY OF EACH CORPSE, HE CONCLUDED KILLING IN MOST INSTANCES WAS DELIBERATE ACT RATHER THAN RESULT OF GENERAL ATTACK. DEAD INCLUDED A STORE KEEPER'S ASSISTANT, ONE AGED MAN OVER SEVENTY, THREE TEENAGED BOYS, FIVE WOMEN, SEVEN CHILDREN BETWEEN 5 AND 10 YEARS OLD ALL STABBED, HACKED, OR SHOT TO DEATH AT POINT BLANK RANGE. CARVALHO HAS SUBMITTED FULL REPORT TO RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS WITH REQUEST IT BE PASSED TO INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS. HIS REPORT CONCLUDES BY ALSO ACCUSING FRELIMO OF SYSTEMATICALLY SEIZING CATTLE AND PROPERTY OF POPULACE, "BEHAVING LIKE OCCUPYING FORCE RATHER THAN LIBERATION FORCE".

5. COMMENT: EVEN MAKING ALLOWANCES FOR PORTUGUESE EMOTIONALISM AND RHETORIC, NHACAMBO WAS A BAD SHOW. FRELIMO COULD NOT HAVE HELPED THE PORTUGUESE CAUSE MORE. PORTUGUESE PROPAGANDA IS EXPLOITING AND WILL CERTAINLY CONTINUE TO EXPLOIT THE OCCURRENCE TO THE FULL AS PROVIDING A THOROUGHLY DOCUMENTED CONTRAST TO THE ALLEGED "MASSACRE" BY PORTUGUESE FORCES AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WIRIYAMU WHICH WAS BROUGHT TO LIGHT ONLY MONTHS AFTER WHATEVER HAPPENED HAD ACTUALLY TAKEN PLACE, AND WAS BASED LARGELY ON HEARSAY OR SECOND HAND INFORMATION.
VAN OSS

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